

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Jan. 30, 1998	3.76
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	May 30, 2007	2
<b>Traffic Escorts</b>		



Cross Reference:..... 2.11

## I. Introduction

Traffic escorts provide only for the expeditious movement of the escorted vehicle through traffic and are not a dignitary protection detail.

## II. Policy Statements

- A. **Sworn personnel shall only use marked vehicles** for traffic escorts.
- B. Prior to starting a non-emergency escort, **sworn personnel in charge of the escort shall ensure the lead** driver of the escorted vehicle **is notified** of the following:
  1. The specific route to be taken.
  2. To turn the headlights on.
  3. To maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.
  4. Not to enter an intersection without the right-of-way unless signaled to do so by a police officer and all traffic has been stopped.
- C. **Except for emergency medical and/or fire escorts, sworn personnel shall only operate the siren intermittently to control traffic. Sworn personnel may use emergency lights continuously.**
- D. Types of escorts and procedures:
  1. High level public officials and dignitaries:
    - a. This type of escort is usually reserved for persons whose position entitles them to protection by the U.S. Secret Service.
    - b. **This service may also be provided at the request of other bona fide law enforcement agencies with protective responsibilities or the Mayor of the City of Columbus.**
  2. Emergency vehicles entering the City with emergency lights and siren operating:
    - a. This type of escort may be provided if the final destination of the emergency vehicle is within the City limits and assistance was requested through the Radio Room prior to arriving in the City.
    - b. **Sworn personnel shall obtain** the reason for the request and the final destination **from Radio Room personnel prior to approval from the precinct sergeant or zone lieutenant.**

3. Funerals:
  - a. The Division of Police generally does not participate in funeral escorts unless ***the Columbus Police or Columbus Fire Honor Guard is participating in the funeral.***
  - b. ***The Traffic Bureau may provide funeral escorts in those circumstances where the size of the procession is likely to pose a significant problem within the City of Columbus.***
4. Oversized vehicles:
  - a. This type of escort may be provided to vehicles that exceed the normal width, length, height, or weight requirements specific to the vehicle; and that have a valid permit issued by the State of Ohio or the City of Columbus.
  - b. Escorts of oversized vehicles shall be handled through the Special Duty ***Unit***. An exception would be oversized vehicles involving the state or federal government, which shall be escorted by Traffic Bureau personnel.
5. Vehicles hauling hazardous or unusual cargo:
  - a. These vehicles are required by Columbus City Code to travel on I-270, unless the point of origin or delivery point is within the portion of the City which is inside I-270.
  - b. Permits to deliver hazardous cargo inside I-270 are issued by the Columbus Division of Fire.
6. Civilian vehicles with medical emergencies aboard:

***Sworn personnel should not escort civilian vehicles under emergency circumstances.*** Whenever possible, victims should be treated and transported by Emergency Medical Service personnel.
7. Miscellaneous non-emergency escorts:

These escorts include tour buses, parades, and vehicles carrying athletic teams, officials, or famous personalities. ***The Special Events Section Lieutenant shall coordinate non-emergency traffic escorts and VIP planning.***